

LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION MEETING
November 6, 1995

Speaker: Barney McNulty

(The tape, unfortunately, ended before the lecture but here is the part that was taped).

(Noise - shuffling)

Mary Dunn, president: I'm very happy to see such a good number of people today and I would appreciate it if people would raise their hands if they're here for the first time, cause quite a few of you told me that. Boy isn't that great, we're very pleased to have people here and we hope you'll keep coming back. I don't know whether all of you realized it or not but we had a small election for the people for the Board of Directors and I want to announce the people who are the new members of the Board. I think it would be nice if they would stand up, Sara Bauer, Marion Craig, Allan Edwards, Freda Ruiz, and Dorothy Williams. Dorothy's here someplace, oh there she is, ok, and Freda just came in. And after the meeting we will have a meeting of the Board of Directors and so the people who are already on the Board are, is supposed to participate in that meeting. I don't know whether some of you know it but our Austin Conover, Austin's standing up back there, would you raise your hand. He's the curator of our Museum, and some people told me that they came to the meeting because it sounded so interesting but they didn't even know we have a Museum, so Austin is the curator and he has written a booklet on Toluca Lake which will be issued in two or three weeks, and it's going to be free, you know there are not very many things that are worthwhile that are free nowadays but this is free to the public and it will be available in bookstores and I would also like to thank the people who have recently donated things to our Museum, Dean Sam Mayo, he's a dean here at the college, Professor Jack Brown, Dr. Lester Boston, and Hollis Forbes and I think Marjorie Cooley wasn't here last time and she and her husband donated some very nice things. She's standing up back there, would you raise your hand Marjorie. So we thank those people because the Museum really appreciates getting donations and I thought that you'd all be interested that several months ago there was a front page story in the Daily News and Austin reports that he is still getting people that are coming in, they thought it was so interesting, they clipped the story and they're still coming to the Museum because of that front page story. And our Museum is Bungalow 15 and it's open from 1:00pm to 4:00pm on school days. And I thought, well, I wear two hats, I'm also the co-program chairman for the East Valley Coordinating Council and Austin wears a lot of hats, he's going to be on that program that we have, a luncheon, it's fundrasing luncheon for only \$5.00 and it's home cooking and it's going to be held at the First United

Methodist Church of North Hollywood, Tuesday November 21, and you're all invited and we're gonna have a panel on three valley Museums and some people don't even know we've got three valley

Museums, so if you don't know, why, you let me know and I'll send you a letter or there's some letters back here that explain it. Now today we've really got a real treat and of course, I've been shaking in my boots because when I asked Barney if he would speak to us, he was very gracious, and he said he'd be very glad to except that he'd, we all have to realize that people in show business get jobs at the last minute, so we had to understand that maybe something would happen but fortunatly it didn't and he is here today and I don't know whether I should call him a boy, but I consider him a local boy, he graduated from North Hollywood High School, he attended college at UCLA and in fact, he's a neighbor of mine, a very nice neighbor and I think a lot of you saw the notes in the newspaper that said he's been working with Bob Hope for the past 43 years, so I won't ...[?]. Oh here he is, Barney's my neighbor and friend, Barney McNulty.

(applause)

McNulty: Hi Everybody.

Audience: Hi

Barney McNulty: These are my ad-libs (laughter). I came to California from New York City and I was amazed, yeah, ok, is that all right now.

People: Yeah, better.

McNulty: I was amazed when I came to California because of the style of the people and so different from New York. The hustle and bustle of that city is something but the casualness and the friendliness of the people out here was kind of wonderful.

Woman: What year did you come?

McNulty: '39 and the kids out here had bicycles, and that was something you didn't have in New York, you had roller skates. And the kids who didn't have bicycles, had horses or ...[?]. And about the time you got to be a junior in high school you tried to have your own car if you could and I remember I went on a search for one. I bought a Model A Ford for \$65.00 and I sold it a long time later, after World War II for \$135.00. (laughing) (Audience laughs) Dumbest thing I ever did was to sell it. (laughter) Because that's a great vehicle, I was just dumb enough to part with it. The Valley then was fields, walnut orchards, some wheat farms, I think the biggest store in downtown North Hollywood was ...[?] feed and grain store. The flow of people was wonderful and the things that they contrived to make the living here enjoyable. For instance, the drive-in, not necessarily the drive-in movie, I think that they were all over and I'm sure that there were drive-in restaurants in Texas and other parts of the south but we had

Bob's Big Boy, opened over in, I think in Glendale, was where it started. I think there were two of them in Glendale and then there were soon two of them in Burbank and we have, I guess

maybe, one of the few remaining Bob's, is in Toluca Lake, they were great, you know, you'd see all your friends there, you'd pull in and try to park next to somebody you knew and if you weren't able to that didn't matter because you could learn through experience how to get in and out of the car without ...[?] all the Coca-Cola that hit the (?)dirt(?). (laughter) Um, it was an exciting time for me, especially, cause I was meeting a lot of new people and I was in high school, so all the things that happen to you in high school, you can appreciate, that it was kind of a blooming time. And I discovered the cultural things that were available here, which were really tremendous. I always been kind of a um, a, how do you say it, a plaque reader, so I will read the things, the inscriptions and stuff like that, and I don't know, just for the heck of it, probably all of you people here have been to the edifice that marks the battle of the Cahuenga Pass. Have you all been there? Let's see a show of hands. Yeah that's pretty good, ok. Do you know anything about how the fighting went? I heard a story, I don't know how true it is but they said that the forces were about equal in size and they each had a cannon but only one side had cannon balls (laughter), so they shot the same cannon balls back and forth at each other (laughter) all day and the total casualties was one mule with a strained backside (laughs), and I think that's the way to fight wars (laughs), ...[?], you know, if you can do it that way. The drive-ins in North Hollywood were at Laurel and Magnolia, I don't know if you remember a movie that Joan Crawford was in and Anne Blythe made her first appearance, important appearance in that movie, and I had met a little gal named Mary Kay Jones, who also tried out for that role but Anne blythe got it and it was called Mildred Pierce. Anybody remember that? Well, you see it come up on television, the drive-in is the one that was in North Hollywood. Now, they had another one down at Ventura and Laurel, that was a big one, and you hit that one after you wnet to the Hollywood Bowl. Now the Hollywood Bowl was a wonderful place to go because you could in for a very cheap price. I don't remember what the price was but I was one of the people they hired to you keep you from coming over the mountain, (laughter) I was called a Hill Guard and there were people who tried to sneak in over the mountain and one day there was a big crowd, maybe eight guys, tough lookin' as hell (laughter), probably from San Fernando or Canoga Park, (more laughter), and I said to them, "You can't come through here" and they said "WHY NOT?", so I said well, because of the poison ivy (lots more laughter) and I'm happy to say they turned back and I'm still here to talk to you today (laughs) (laughter). Now, at North Hollywood they had a very active kind of a school in terms of extracurricular activites, and they had a super school paper and I got to work on that and I really loved doing the sports and doing the third page editor stuff on it where you exchanged stories with other high school all over California and some of these stories were real bright and short, the best ones came from ...[?] Gazette. Now, I

would look, I would look all the time in the maps to see where the hell the town of ...[?] was. (laughter) I never found out, I never located the town of ...[?]. Anybody here know where it is,

Ok, don't tell me because I want to tell the rest of the people how I learned what it was. In the service, after working at Lockheed, where I helped build P38's and I then got into the service and I was lucky enough to be the control tower operator for a P38 group. I'd been on all-night duty at Hamilton Field which is north of San Francisco and there was a flight that had just come in about 300 P38's, you never saw anything like it, the weather had closed down, they were on mass flight up to Washington and Oregon but the weather up there was bad so they gave all these pilots the choice of where they could alternate, so you could go to Fresno, or you could go to Sacramento, you could go to Oakland or Oxnard, you know. But SAN FRANCISCO (singing it) all these guys came to San Francisco and this field was so busy with 55 C87's taking off, this was a cargo version of the B24 and then another 55 C87's were coming in, so you had four engine aircraft with their motors running and here comes 300 P38's to land in the middle of all this, so if you can imagine what a day this was, so I had, as I said, been asleep, I came to the tower and the guy said, you gotta see this Barney, you never seen anything like it, and I was watching these airplanes and they were trying to wave them off with red lights, they were doing anything they could to keep the runway clear, and the last flight came over and peeled up and their hitting em with red lights and I said I hope I never work with any people as ...[?] as these pilots, where are they from, they said Lomida Flight Strip, said Ok so I went down stairs picked up my mail, I had orders to Lomida Flight Strip (laughter), just like that. The thing I forgot to do when I started, I ramble a little bit, as you'll see, was when I hit the tower at Hamilton they said there's Angel Island, that's four miles, here's three miles that's Mount ...[?], I knew where it was, it's in Mill Valley. And if you've never seen Hamilton Field and you're up North and you can get in, it's closed, I think, but they may be using it for a school or something, has the most delightful California style buildings, you know, old California, with red tiles and so forth, it's just, just real, it was a beautiful place, well flowered and kept up, with a lot of trees and stuff. But we've digressed from the Valley. One of the big things here in the Valley was to see San Fernando Mission and it's marvelous what they've been able to do over the years to preserve and that bring that place alive like it was once before. It's a wonderful thing to restore anything, if you ever get a chance to restore something, do it. My first view of the Valley, cause we had lived across the hill. My sister had a friend who was willing to take me up in an airplane, so we crossed over the mountain, came through that tunnel, remember how there used to be a little tunnel on the top of Sepulveda and we got to Van Nuys Airport, now in those days it was Metropolitan Airport. The airplane that I got into was a two seater, open air, P, it was a Ryan, Ryan sports plane, I think later they were called P19's and P21's. It was in the magazines because on the back page of Life Magazine

will be somebody handing somebody else a cigarette as he got into his Ryan Sports Plane and that sort of thing. So my first view of the Valley was from the air, and I'm telling ya it was fabulous,

it was just like the views you'd see from movies like Hell's Angels and stuff like that, you know where there's just all fields and open, very few, very few tall buildings. A wekk after I flew in that plane it spun in. So that's one thing you got to remember about airplanes, there's always some element of risk. I got inured to flying when I worked in television because so many times you had to fly places, there wasn't time to get there any other way, so I just don't think twice about getting on anything. That valley, I loved, still like it, still enjoy it, I live here. I've lived a few other places but I always come back and I always do find so much to do here. The part that I live in, Studio City, you can get to Universal City in about 4 minutes, you can get to, over the other side of the hill, in about 15 or 20, and you got a great library at UCLA, I understand there's a good library here, I haven't been in it, that's one of the things I'll have to pick up on. My life has been communications and aviation and a mixture of horses and politics (laughter). I liked horses, always have, I've never been able to keep one but my sister again had a couple and my grandfather ran a livery service in Philadelphia, with teams of horses with calves. Some day if I get a chance, I'm gonna have some horses, and I kind of follow them a little bit and I enjoy seeing them. They're a beautiful animal, one of, these are the things you should fill your life with if you can. So now, I'm into this crazy business of show business. Now, I got into the business through the head ushers brother at CBS and I had been working my way through college, through UCLA ushering at fottball games and basketball games, so they said with that and your Hollywood Bowl experience we can maybe use you as a CBS usher but I met the head ushers brother, as I say, at a Pyramid Club meeting, and my mother, started of having misgivings about the Pyramid Club, so she called a meeting and gave everybody back their money and the brother of the usher was so impressed that (laughs) he then offered me a job. But I of course wouldn't have met this usher unless, there's something else I'm going to tell you a little bit later. Well, I started in radio, now anybody here work radio, there must be some people.

Man: HAM Operator.

McNulty: Is that right? Well, that's a way to go, so you know Morse Code. I went to a famous radio school in the Midwest called True Ax Field. Did you ever here of there yell? 3 dits, 4 dits, 2 dits, da, true ax, true ax, ra, ra, ra. (laughter) His face is clouding up, I see he's thinking about it. (laughter) yeah. Well, SOS, ...[?] When the army gets hold of you they try to teach you something, now most of us don't listen to em but they try anyhow. And the thing that they taught me was how to take down Morse Code and you not only have to be capable of taking it down, you got to be able to write it ledgibally, so here I had to spend hours of practice how to write and they teach you also how to write with the shortest stroke that you need so that you use

the least amount of energy and the least amount of time in writing out a message. So when this fellow who was doing the cards at CBS was also an usher decided he didn't want to help

with the cards that were being done for Ed Wynn, Ed Wynn by the way is the one that conceived of cue cards, he used em on Broadway because he did topical reviews, and he was continually changing the joke pattern, so in the orchestra pit he had somebody hold some cards. So I came and I was considered fairly reliable, so when the guy that had been helping Wynn, Wynn's property man, with the cards, said he didn't want to do it anymore because it made him nervous, they took him, they put him back on the telephone where they put me, and they put me into the orchestra pit and to this day I don't know, this fella's name is (?)Ken Thompson(?), good guy, I don't know whether he really was frightened of handling the cards or whether he just wanted to be able to say Bing Crosby, Mr. Crosby, here's a call for you. (laughter) I don't know, you know, it's one of those things you don't know. Well, anyhow, I turned a few cards and I could do it and I liked doing it because there's an element, again, of responsibility to it and some satisfaction as a play, whatever you were doing, came across. So Wynn came to me one day and he said, "Barney, I'm sick, I'm full of medicine, I can't remember anything, is it possible to put the whole show on cards." So McNulty contributed his bit, in this story, cue cards are cards that say horse, fence, background, whatever the series of ideas you want to, you want to ...[?]. I did dialouge and I did dialouge in such a way that it flowed and you can tell that it flowed because a lot of the shows I worked on then, you're still watching today. (laughs) I'm as every bit as much of a fossil as any of you out there. Ed Wynn was a wonderful man, a great human being, a great rich guy, with imagination, with balls, with courage, with compassion. He was a very unusual guy and I remember once down at the Shrine Auditorium they were giving some kind of a benefit and there was a cute girl in the show, that kept popping up unexpectedly and finally Wynn said to Al Canner, who was writing and producing this thing. He says, "What the hell is she trying to do?" and Canner later said to me, he said "you see how the old lion roars." (a little laughter) Wynn was really fabulous and he wouldn't do anything dirty, he literally agonized for about week after Harpo Marx talked him into hiding under the bed, NO, Harpo and a girl were under the bed when Wynn was going to sleep. Remember who he used to turn off his show, he'd walk out and they'd play (singing) "let's turn out the light and go to sleep" and he'd have the candle and an old nightgown. So, he was a great rich experience. And in the course of working for him, they wanted to do another show. So, the pilot they did was a huge success and I can still remember, one of the jokes on it. The head guy said that he was new to television but they told him all he had to do was follow the red light, he said, "so last night I followed the little red light all the way to Pomona." (laughter) That was George Burns. (laughter) Another guy that was on was Allen Young and Young was a, again, a great guy and I had an opportunity there to see the kind of English humor and pantomime. But, uh, they're so delightful ...[?] and the way that they'll

include, think things into humor, they had one scene where they had two fat German soldiers with a potato masher hand grenade. Have you ever seen potato masher? You know it's a big thing. And

they contrived, at the end of this, to have a a big explosion off stage and the Germans come back in all in tatters, you know, the uniforms ripped and everything, and they say to Young ...[?] ...[?] zie mit da hand ...[?] spiel. Which means, why did you play with the hand grenade. (laughter) Another one, which you may remember, Mike Stokey had a show, "Pantomine Quiz", he also had a lot of adventures and one night he fell through a glass door and so, uh, in this sketch which Allan Moberry and Young were part of the bomber crew, of an English bomber hitting the, you know, going in and there's dot dot dash coming in and Young says ...[?] the message, message, he says quiet, quiet, Cricket score is coming in. (laughter) Then they say what happened to Stokey, the tail gunner, ...[?] inuendo there, I say, he bailed out over Paris, so Moberry says "Oh, those cafe's will be the death of him." But that's one of the things that's wrong with television today, it isn't live like it was, everything that happened then was instantaneous, it was related to everything else that happened that day, now your liable to see a sketch or something done 6, 8 weeks before and it just doesn't have any relation to today's life, so you get it on show like "Today", of course, and "Tonight" but all of television was once live and it was a great, wonderful way to do things. You'd have more, it kept ya going I'll tell you, I mean it really, well, it's like. I kept going to school through a lot of this and I took camera at UCLA, photography, from a guy named Floyd Crosby, who either won an oscar or a nomination, or a nomination for an oscar for a movie called "High Noon" and there was a gal, a coed, one day said to him.....

(Unfortunately, the tape ran out before the end of the lecture. Mr. McNulty ended his lecture with the song "Make San Fernando Valley My Home", having everyone sing. About 20 minutes of lecture was lost.)

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INTERVIEW WITH MRS. MURIEL JONES
Conducted by James Dodson
May 6, 1976

Dodson: Mrs. Jones I wonder if you would state your full name for us and tell us when you came into the Valley.

...[?], England, August 12, 1896.

Dodson: When did you come into the Valley Mrs. Jones.

Jones: Came (?)March(?) 12, 1901, that's when we came to San Fernando, we came here first and we've been here all the time. That was ideal here.

Dodson: Could you tell us the remark your father made when he saw it for the first time? You told us...

Jones: My mother.

Dodson: Your mother..

Jones: Mother. Mother said, "Charlie, this is the last place God made and he sure made it in a hurry."

Dodson: Unfortunately, through some error, mechanical or human, the rest of Side 1 of this interview, was not recorded. The rest of the interview continues on Side 2. The interview on Side 2 will begin with a question that I had asked Mrs. Jones about the Lopez Adobe, so she is describing the Lopez Adobe. This adobe is in the town of San Fernando. Please turn to Side 2 of this tape.

Jones: ...[?] couple, he was a telegraph operator over there at, well, we called it Owensmouth but it's Canoga Park and the high school was called Owensmouth High School and they had the Easter Sunrise Services there and they would have the high school band, you know, and we'd all go, get up and go over there right about 6 o'clock in the morning, you know and they'd have a good speaker and then we'd go back to our friends and have breakfast and that was a great pleasure, way back when the ...[?] Valley was so lovely and everything was so nice. We enjoyed that very much.

Dodson: You do feel a little regret then at seeing the Valley fill up and not having the open space's like it was then?

Jones: I do. I think ...[?], I talk to so many people, and we miss the trees and everything. ...[?] a lot of trees, there all practically all gone now, you know, and go out ...[?] see houses and there all about the same, these condominiums and all these houses, why if somebody's drunk and going home at night they

could get the wrong house, they all look alike. So, after all time passes on and there is a great change but um.

Dodson: Can you tell us anything about the life in the Valley when you first came? Were people more religious, would you say, then than now? Did they go to church more?

Jones: I think they did because that was one thing to do and there was a friendship and a bond there. People went to church, they all got together and I remember ...[?], see my mother was an Episcopalian, naturally, coming from England, but there was no Episcopalian Church here when we came, and then along several years later there was a Presbyterian Church my dad used to ...[?] sing in the choir and then the ...[?] family moved across the street from us, and Mrs. ...[?] took me to Methodist Church and so I think, really think that people ...[?] more religion in those days, they went to church more, it was sort of a place where they could meet and see each other, I think it was more of the friendship and social ...[?], you know, too.

Dodson: It played a more rounded part of life, you think, then?

Jones: I have a feeling today, though, that we are going back a little more to religion. People are thinking the world has so many tremendous problems that, I think that we're beginning to realize that God takes care of us and I think.... I've had that feeling, in fact, I've heard Billy Graham and ...[?] Roberts talk that churches are beginning to ...[?] there was a while that there was a great lack of attendance, that there is more attendance now.

Dodson: Would you say that most people in the Valley did belong to a church and go to a church when you were a girl?

Jones: Yes, and of course, it was always a Catholic church, which was very, very strong here, you see, in San Fernando because so many Mexican people and then the Protestant churches. And I think for years it was kind of a, well, sort of a little feeling, you know, 'course know we've all, people accept, we've come to realize that if you've got a religion, so what? ...[?] in prison there's ...[?] the religion ...[?]. And I never say anybody's, feel that anybody should be a Catholic, Protestant, ...[?] The way I feel, to me it's living the life. I've seen people go to church and yell allelujah, and go out the next day and put a knife in your back. You know what I mean. ...[?] that's the thing that counts.

Dodson: Can you tell us a little more about the sort of jobs that you held? What you did.

Jones: I just had the one job, I was secretary down there at San Fernando ...[?]. I went down there in 1918. We sold the property in '48 and then we this Pico Court that property that we owned and I worked with them 'til 1962 ...[?] and picked the fruit.

They sold that property. The one job I had was for the San Fernando (?) Lemon (?) Association in all those years.

Dodson: Now, by 1962 were the lemon groves disappearing in the Valley?

Jones: Very fast, very fast. They were beginning to, uh, property

was beginning to be sub-divided, ...[?] quite a lot of property. People bought maybe lemons groves for, oh, \$500.00 an acre. They'd have about \$5000.00 and 10 acre piece invested and they were selling it for 2 and 3, 4000 dollars an acre, so you can see what the real estate did, it came right in and they really made a lot of profit out of it. And it was sad to see them because some of them were beautiful groves, ...[?] groves, ya know, people had planted the lemons and oranges. And I remember Mr. Murphy, he had ten acres he planted out there on Mission Blvd. up on the hills there, you know, and oh, it was so wonderful, so pretty, young trees, well, ...[?] to sell it, naturally he was going to take the ...[?]. That's why all the, and I go out, go out Mission Blvd. and Rinaldi now, you know, and I look up at those hills (laughs) and see those homes and everything and you've seen all the trees and fruit and everything that the, I must say this, I'm glad everybody made it but I'm so glad that I had the opportunity to live ...[?] and seeing it in my youth and ...[?] I enjoyed my work and I was very fortunate, I had my wonderful men to work with and who didn't chase the secretary around the desk. (laughter)

Dodson: (laughs) You think that's strictly a present day idea, that in those days they didn't do that sort of thing?

Jones: Oh I don't know, I think, um, I'm afraid they still did some of that those days.

Dodson: Here I thought you were gonna say that people nowadays were more sinful but in your days they didn't do all those things.

Jones: Well, I can remember, just for instance, I recall one terrible thing in that I was graduating from high school, one of our girls in 11th grade, and she got pregnant by one of the boys whose the son of one of the, supposed to be the leading men in town. And everybody, well that was a disgrace those days. It's nothing like today, when I heard the other day that many hundreds of thousands of unmarried girls and have babies, it's sad.

Dodson: Can you tell us a little more about the public reaction to this girl you're talking about?

Jones: OHH! It was terrible! They were very, very, um, upset about the boy because he was from a good family. She was from a family over in Sunland and she was very good family too but I mean they critisized both of them. Everybody was very upset, they were really in disgrace. You know, it isn't like today, ...[?] a

matter of ...[?] and I still am a strong believer that, I think, that I feel sorry, I feel sorry for the children that are born to these unwed parents because they many times they split up and what's to become of the little one, I'm talking about the children now, I mean the older ones they know what, they think they know what they're doing, but really and truly you feel sorry for the little.

Dodson: Was the feeling so strong in those days, that those two would have to leave the community, that they were treated as being disgraced then?

Jones: The feeling was very strong that it was a disgrace, we'll say that, the boy naturally stayed here and the girl, I think she died in pregnancy but anyway, it hit the school, I mean, it was so terrible because it was something we didn't know about, you know, I mean all of a sudden it came up. I recall that incident and

Dodson: So this would be a very unusual happening in the time when you were young?

Jones: In those days I'm sure there were still, maybe in places, things like that but you didn't hear about 'em. Today it's just common knowledge.

Dodson: Karen, I think you had a question?

Karen: Yes. Do you remember when Minny Barton started her revolution of homes for unwed mothers and this sort of thing?

Jones: I don't remember but, I don't remember that but I recall reading about it and I thought it was such a marvelous idea and I have thought all the years that it was a wonderful thing to help these girls because so many times the girls are left destitute, I mean the man walks out, that's what I always get against the men, they can, they can sure get a girl in trouble, course she helps too, I'm not, but, and another thing too that makes me so angry, is these men had two, three, four children and pretty soon they're walking off, and the wife has the kids to bring up.

Dodson: I don't think they're all that bad, do you think so, Mrs. Jones?

Jones: No, I'm just talking about some of them, Dr. Dodson, but I don't mean, I don't mean all, but you know that to be a fact too.

Karen: Well, the thing that I was impressed with, is Minnie Barton had this theory, and that is that a lot of the girls from the other parts of the United States were lured over into California, different parts of the Valley where they had the different studios, film making studios and things, they were lured here because they thought they could be a star or something like that. Did you know, personally, any people like that, that

came over here or any girls in your classes that had dreams of becoming a star?

Jones: No, most of my friends all wanted to be school teachers and ... they taught school even after ...[?] for many years, enjoyed it. But I didn't, I didn't know anybody that wanted to be a star, I think we were all too practical, I mean you had to have

ambition, when you're younger you want to have that ideal. But I think most of these girls, my freidns, were the sort, that they wanted an education to earn a living, you know, you were taught, you just weren't staying home those days, you knew you had to get out and earn a living.

Dodson: We did have one of the big movie studios established here in the Valley very early in Universal, I think they came in about 1915, didn't they?

Jones: They did, they did, there was a lot of interest in that, I mean people interested in that studio. You remember, I was just thinking of the Mason girl who is an actress, her name, what is it, Francis Mason, they used to live over at Sunland and her parents had an ice cream booth outside on the, on the road there, people could stop by and go over to Mason's for ice cream and vegetables, you know, and then they had a little ice cream parlor here in San Fernando, and she used to work, I think it was Mary Mason, but anyways I've seen her on the stage, she's gotten to be, some very good parts ...[?] from that family, you know, and that's about the only one I would recall, you know, having a ...[?].

Karen: Do you recall anything that comes to your mind about the Depression of 1929?

Jones: Well, let me tell you what had happened to me, I was working, course I told you ...[?] San Fernando ...[?] Association and you know, the Board of Directors were all men, they were all very nice, they were all very knid to me and all that but they always, you know, didn't think any more of a dollar ...[?]. So I recall, when the Depression came they had a board meeting and when the men ...[?] there was always six on the board and I'd get notices out and have to write the minutes and everything and then they said well we're cutting your salary 75 dollars a month, right like that, no warning. What'd you gonna say, you need the job. And I remember, I recall I felt so sorry for the Mexican help, in those days we had no machines, they were making boxes by hand and they might have a truck to haul that but they didn't have the machinery to load the boxes and fruit on. And ...[?] of those boys were getting 40 cents an hour, and they cut back to 35 cents an hour, then the next two months, some of these same board of directors come riding up with, in a big automobile, a Cadillac, that made me mad but I never said anything because so what, I needed the work, so they took my 75 dollars a month. My husband and I came through the Depression, he was ...[?] got the gas in France, World War I, so I was able, through my ration deal and

everything, to get him proper food, I mean, we didn't suffer, we didn't go out and couldn't splurge, who wanted to, nobody had the, everybody was in the same condition, you were just lucky that you had enough to ...[?], we just lucky I had a job, ...[?], my dad worked, my mother worked too during the war, so we were just lucky. I think the morality back in the early days was better ...[?] today, I think there was more morality, I mean, oh

still, I'm not saying that people are perfect but I really do think there was more of a ...[?] of morality.

Dodson: You mentioned the case of the pregnant girl, that was extremely unusual in your day the?

Jones: It was, it was and it was definitely talked up, it was terrible, I mean, it was just a terrible sin, you know, that was the impression that we had.

Dodson: Sometimes nowadays we get people living together who aren't married. Would that have occurred in your early days?

Jones: No, I never, today it's so easy, they seem to do that, they want a new wife, I personally don't approve of, but that's not for me, somebody else could think it's all right, well ok, but I would think there's more sanctity to marriage and I think that because you know, you have to live, ...[?] live, that's the way I feel about it.

Dodson: What about narcotics? Was there any use of those when you were in school?

Jones: ...[?]

Dodson: You didn't know of anyone who actually used them?

Jones: No, I never did, it was so foreign, it was so foreign to us, it's hard to realize that it is being done, you know.

Dodson: You know this is in line with my feelings. Sometimes some of my students will ask me about narcotics when I was in college and when I tell them not a single one of my friends or anyone I ever heard of used them, they think I just didn't get around and didn't know.

Jones: Like me, I never heard of, we never heard of all those things, it was just far out of our reach.

Dodson: What would be the major type of crime here in the Valley, in the past, would you say?

Jones: Gosh, I haven't had much of

Karen: Was there any prostitution, to speak of, back in the days when you were growing up, around here?

Jones: Well, there might have been some but it was very far removed from my life, and you know, you heard of ...[?].

Karen: You couldn't tell of any person?

Jones: No, no, no but I'm sure there was, things went on that were not, you see, people were very secretive when, in those

days, everything had to be just as they were. And I think that's why so many things were not brought out in the open," I heard this and I heard that, don't tell anybody", that's the deal.

Karen: Over the fence talk.

Jones: Yeah, over the fence, people would talk down in the ...[?], over the fence, I've heard some wild conversations when I was a ...[?] but really and truly, for a little town, I think, I know I've been happy here all my life, I've enjoyed my friendship and work and I'm glad to see it go ahead and I like to ...[?] these young people and young people today, they're having trouble, like the kids wanting to get something for the summer, I mean there are not too many jobs like there used to be, it's really, I feel sorry for 'em, they want to work and they can't, I mean they. I wish the President and all our Congress would get together and get emplomnet going, that's what we need, we need jobs that create things for people, and I think if they just spent a little more time on it, they could, that's just me talking, if I would get my head knocked off but.

Dodson: Now when you were a girl say, was it safer to walk down the street alone at night then it is now, would you say?

Jones: OH Heavens to Betsy, yeah, why Lord, you could go all over the place. We used to walk up on Fifth Street, you know, way up almost towards the mountains. One of my friends lived way up there, and I recall there was a whole bunch of us girls would walk up there, we'd go up ...[?] play cards and sing, and thsi one night we were coming home about 11:30, ...[?] and all of a sudden, it was foggy, all of a sudden we saw this shadow, you know, bigger, loom up before us and it was a telephone operator on her bicycle and we scared her to death (laughing), but really you were so safe, you never thought about locking the door or window, nobody ever, everybody left the house wide open, nobody locked the doors or window, and you were just, why you could roam all over the town, that's the tragic part, I wouldn't even go outside of the apartment ...[?].

Dodson: So you feel this is a very definite change?

Jones: OH, very, very, very. I think the last few years it's gotten very bad, a woman, I have a friend who was on the police force, she's retired now, Marge ...[?], and she, one day we were talking, you know about women driving (?)at night(?), I used to drive all over, even when I was president of the[?] club,

we'd go to Riverside, a whole bunch of us, you know, I'd drive and my mother would get paranoid but you'd come out Foothill Blvd., you never see another car, you're so safe way back there in 1940 ...[?]. But anyway Marge said, "now Muriel, I want to tell you something, no woman has a right, should drive by herself at night", she said there's just too much evil going on, she said any man could drive your car or any person ...[?] behind you

could drive you up against the curb or something, take chances, and ...[?] well, I personally now, the last years I don't go out at night but I thought what a good point that was, you know. I've had cataract surgery on both eyes, so I wear contact glasses, I don't drive at night because the lights bother those glasses but otherwise they're fine. I was very lucky, I'm a treasurer of a blind club here in San Fernando, Sierra Vista ...[?], and you go there and some of those people are totally blind and have had cataract surgery like I've had and they've had infection and lost their sight. So I'm very, very grateful, anything I can do to help, why I certainly want to, you know, then you'd be amazed at what diabetes does. I didn't know, ...[?] that diabetes is the cause of much blindness, did you know that? We had quite a few people there. One of the boy's who had trouble with his sight had just lost leg to diabetes too.

Karen: What were the hospital facilities back in the 1900's, early 1900's?

Jones: 1930 we had the San Fernando Hospital down there in Chatsworth, it's still there now, but that was the only hospital we had here. I recall when I was a little girl, we lived in the (?) McCray Motel(?), a building right there on 2nd and McCray, in those days when we first came to San Fernando we lived, everybody lived, so many people lived there and Dr. ?(Wheat)? was an old doctor and he lived close by and he was very, very wonderful, a very good family doctor. (laughs) I remember I was, we used, my uncle had a hay wagon, one day he was taking all us kids to school, no, we were coming home, he brought us home from school, and I was standing corner, on the back, waving good-bye and the horse started up and I fell off and broke my nose (laughs). How bout that.

Dodson: Seems to me I've heard of Dr. Wheat, he must have been a well known physician.

Jones: He was well known in the early days, he was here when we came in 1901 and his family, he had a wife and a daughter and a son, The daughter was married and lived in Glendale, of course they're both gone but he was just a regular old fashioned family doctor, just loved, everybody loved him but we were very happy and everybody was very proud when San Fernando Hospital ...[?] that was very well operated, still is, in fact the man who's the owner of it now, his mother owned it and he took over.

Dodson: So that is still in existence?

Jones: